

Spring 2006

SENSORY PROGRAM

Newsletter



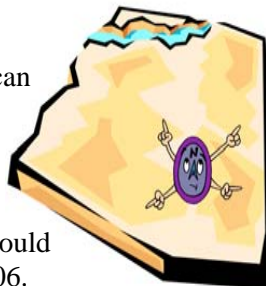
What's New with the Sensory Program?

- ✓ New Location
- ✓ ADHS Sensory Website
- ✓ Did You Know. . .
- ✓ Training Updates
- ✓ Annual Hearing Screening Report
- ✓ Hearing Screening Rules

And more . . .
See reverse side!

Coming Soon

To make hearing equipment more accessible, the ADHS Sensory Program will soon have audiometers available for the northern area of the state. They can be borrowed from the Arizona School for the Blind and Deaf in Flagstaff. To reserve a machine, please contact Patty Pieper at (928) 774-0655. Audiometers should be available for loan by April 2006.



POSSST!
Get
a Load
of This!

The ADHS website contains useful information related to hearing and vision screening for Arizona schools. The website contains general information as well as the Hearing Screening Rules, Vision Screening Guidelines, Annual Hearing Screening Report forms, a link to the T³ Website, and the Policies, Procedures and forms for T³ Trainers and Screeners. Go to:
<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm>.

Did you know. . .



★ If you submit your Hearing Screening Annual Report prior to April of any school year, it will be returned to you. According to the ADHS Sensory Program Policies and Procedures (9.6), located on the Sensory website, the annual Hearing Screening Program Report is due no earlier than April 1 and no later than June 30.

★ All ADHS hearing-screening equipment is calibrated on an annual basis. Equipment from Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff are included in the annual calibrations. In addition, calibrations for the Lyons Foundation equipment are funded by the ADHS Sensory Program. It is essential that all screenings of Arizona school children be done with equipment that is calibrated annually.

Training Updates

★ The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, T³ Program provides two Training Institutes per year. The next Institute is scheduled for September 2006. Training is provided to qualified individuals who are interested in providing training to potential hearing screeners. Information on upcoming trainings can be obtained at the T³ website: <http://www.ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/T3>.

★ The Sensory Program receives frequent requests for hearing screening training. The summer and spring seem to be when the numbers of inquiries tend to be the greatest. If you are a T³ Trainer, please take advantage of the T³ website where you can post your training events. As the calls come in, they will be referred to the website and they can contact you directly.

★ T³ is completing its first Internet-Based Renewal System pilot. It appears to be working well so far. Information on how to complete your five-year renewal for hearing screening can be accessed on the T³ website.

DON'T FORGET!
Attach a copy of
your Hearing
Screening Certificate
to the Annual Report
before sending it
to ADHS.

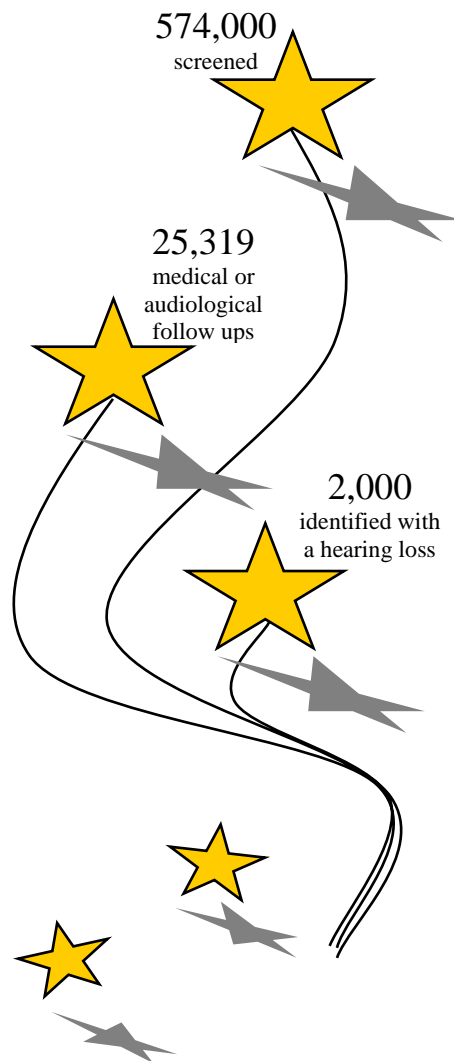
Rules To Be Revised

In July, 2002, the ADHS Hearing Screening Rules were revised. By law they are due to be reviewed and revised by July, 2007. As a part of that process, ADHS Sensory Program is requesting any input, suggestions, issues or concerns you may have with the current rules. Please send comments to Virginia James at jamesv@azdhs.gov, or Denisa Brown-Perkins, brownpd@azdhs.gov.

The Numbers Are In

School nurses have done a phenomenal job in submitting hearing screening reports. In the 2004/2005 school year, hearing screeners (including qualified school nurses) screened over 574,000 children. Out of the children screened, 25,319 received medical or audiological follow-up.

Thanks to the hard work Arizona School Nurses do, over 25,000 children received medical or audiological treatment, and nearly 2,000 children were identified for the first time as having a sensori-neural hearing loss.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Where can I find the new Annual Hearing Screening Report form?**
- A.** The revised Hearing Screening Report form can be downloaded from the ADHS Sensory website at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/sensory.htm>. Click on the link for the Hearing Screening Program Report (2006). Discard all old versions of the annual hearing screening report form.
- Q. I completed a hearing screening training a few months ago and have not received my I.D. card. When will I get it?**
- A.** ADHS Sensory Program no longer provides hearing screening identification cards. Screeners will continue receiving an original Certificate of Completion from their trainers. Keep the original hearing screening certificate on file and attach a copy to the Annual Hearing Screening Report before submitting it to ADHS.
- Q. Since I am a registered nurse, am I automatically qualified to perform hearing screenings?**
- A.** No — individuals, who are not audiologists, may perform hearing screenings if they have completed and passed a hearing screening course under R9-13-107(B) of the Hearing Screening Rules.
- Q. How long should hearing screening records be kept at the school?**
- A.** Schools are required to keep hearing screening records for no less than three complete school years — beginning the first July 1 after the student's last date of attendance at the school (R9-13-109(A)).
- Q. I need more time to conduct hearing screenings, may I keep the audiometer I checked out for another week?**
- A.** Extensions may be requested by contacting the pick-up site of the loaned equipment. Loans may be extended based on availability and demand.

If you have questions, contact the ADHS Sensory Program at (602) 364-1400.



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